

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West Bank and Gaza
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	294-003
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$10,150,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$9,469,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$9,996,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2007

Summary: USAID West Bank and Gaza supports a program of broad-based democratic development through: financial and technical assistance for Palestinian Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to promote public discourse and improve oversight of public institutions; technical and limited material assistance to the Palestinian Council to improve the capacity and responsiveness of key legislative staff, offices, and committees; and activities that strengthen the rule of law, including enhancing prosecutorial capacity, improving the efficiency of Palestinian courts, increasing the use of alternative dispute resolution, and modernizing the curriculum and teaching practices of Palestinian law schools. As with all other USAID-funded activities in the West Bank and Gaza, consistent with legislative requirements, no financial assistance, including budget support or cash is given to the Palestinian Authority or the PLO.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Strengthen local CSOs to ensure proper oversight of public institutions (\$6,150,000 ESF). These funds will be used in FY 2003 to improve local CSO capacity in the areas of policy analysis, communication, leadership skills, strategic planning, financial management, and conflict resolution. Assistance will include direct grants to local CSOs, workshops, and consultative meetings. These interventions support the Palestinian reform process, promote discourse in public decision-making, and strengthen local CSO capacity to oversee public institutions. USAID support will also be provided to strengthen the political leadership skills of Palestinian women. The principal implementing partners are: Chemonics International, the Academy for Educational Development (AED), Search for Common Ground (SCG), the International Republican Institute (IRI), the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA), and the Consortium for Election and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS).

Improve the capacity of the Palestinian Legislative Council (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will assist the Council to draft, review and approve legislation, provide oversight of the Executive Branch, improve constituent relations, and strengthen internal administration. Although USAID will cease technical assistance to the Palestinian Legislative Council in the second quarter of FY 2003 -- pending the outcome of Palestinian elections -- the Mission will design a next phase program to support a future Palestinian legislative body. During a projected gap in assistance in the second and third quarters of FY 2003, USAID may provide up to \$1 million in previous year ESF for ad hoc support to the Palestinian Legislative Council to support specific reform initiatives. The principal implementing partner is: the Associates in Rural Development (ARD).

Strengthen the rule of law to promote Palestinian reform, an independent judiciary, and broad-based economic growth (\$3,000,000 ESF). These funds will be used in FY 2003 to improve the rule of law by building management and administrative capacity within the judicial system, increasing professionalism of the legal community, improving the curriculum and teaching capacity in law schools, and providing support for alternative dispute resolution centers. The principal implementing partner is: DPK Consulting.

Support for a decentralized local government structure (\$250,000 ESF). USAID may provide limited assistance to strengthen the management capacity of local government officials and village leaders in FY 2003 through training and workshops and other programs to further decentralize local government decision-making. USAID's implementing partner has yet to be selected.

Support for free and fair Palestinian elections (\$250,000 ESF). USAID will strengthen a recently appointed independent elections commission, promote political party development, and ensure elections monitoring for free and fair elections. The principal implementing partners are: the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Republican Institute (IRI), and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

FY 2004 Program:

Strengthen local CSOs to ensure proper oversight of public institutions (\$8,100,000 ESF). USAID will provide incremental funding to the TAMKEEN project for grants to local CSOs in support of broadened public discourse on proposed Palestinian reforms - including elections.

Improve the capacity of a new Palestinian Legislative Council (\$300,000 ESF). Pending the outcome of elections for a new Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), it is envisioned that USAID will provide technical assistance in FY 2004 to strengthen the new PLC's capacity to develop legislation and oversee the executive branch.

Strengthen the rule of law to promote Palestinian reform, institutional transparency, and broad-based economic growth (\$1,596,000 ESF). In FY 2004, USAID will provide incremental funding to its on-going rule of law program to: improve prosecutorial capacity, make more efficient Palestinian courts, increase the use of alternative dispute resolution methods, and improve the administration and teaching at Palestinian law schools. USAID will also provide support to specialized bar groups to improve their ability to advocate for legal and regulatory reform.

Performance and Results: USAID has provided significant assistance to Palestinian CSOs to strengthen the role of public discourse in the decision-making process and increase the capacity of CSOs to provide oversight of public institutions. Over the past twelve months, USAID has provided 75 grants to local CSOs. Specific results include the introduction of civic education in the Palestinian curriculum, the promotion of conflict resolution skills for youth, and improved financial management systems and strategic planning capabilities of local CSOs. USAID has also provided significant support to the PLC to promote key elements of the reform process. USAID assistance and training has established a comprehensive legislative structure, improved outreach to constituents, and systematized record-keeping. Over the past twelve months, USAID assistance supported eight Legal Committee workshops that proposed changes to the National Elections Laws and a pre-election assessment conducted by three prominent U.S. PVOs. USAID support to strengthen the rule of law includes activities focused on improving the law schools, the judicial system and legal profession. Assistance to Palestinian courts has resulted in the development of a second phase automated case-tracking system. This system will be used in up to eight pilot courts in the West Bank and Gaza. The system gives law students and professors access to a specialized database on Palestinian law. USAID supported judicial training for more than 27 recently appointed judges and several new prosecutors to promote a civilian judicial system that is fair and efficient. Two alternative dispute resolution centers have been opened with USAID support and are currently receiving commercial cases.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West Bank and Gaza

294-003 Democracy and Governance	ESF
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	69,051
Expenditures	44,972
Unliquidated	24,079
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	13,185
Expenditures	14,722
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	82,236
Expenditures	59,694
Unliquidated	22,542
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	9,469
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	10,150
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	19,619
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	9,996
Future Obligations	9,996
Est. Total Cost	121,847